

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.All business or news letter and telegraphic
despatches must be addressed New York
Herald.Letters and packages should be properly
sealed.Rejected communications will not be re-
turned.

Volume XXXIV.....No. 343

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 11th street—
HENRY DUNBAR.FRENCH THEATRE, 14th st. and 6th av.—LONDON;
OR, LIGHTS AND SHADOWS OF THE GREAT CITY.THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street—THE BUREAU
OF BAD DICKS.GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of Eighth avenue and
52d street—ENGLISH OPERA—THE HUGENOTS.BOOTH'S THEATRE, 23rd st., between 8th and 9th avs.—
FIRST PART OF KING HENRY IV.OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway—UNDER THE GAS-
LIGHT.FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth st.—THE
IRISH HEIR.NIRLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—THE LITTLE DETRO-
IT—AN OBJECT OF INTEREST.WOODS' MUSIC AND MENAGERIE, Broadway, corner
of 11th st.—MUSICAL DEITY. Performance every evening.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—PAUL CLIFFORD—
DER FREISCHUTZ.ACADEMY OF MUSIC, 14th street—LECTURE BY PIER
HACKEIT.MRS. F. R. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn—
THE SERPENT ON THE BEACH.TONY PASTORI'S OPERA HOUSE, 311 Bowery—COMIC
VOCALISM, NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c.THEATRE COMIQUE, 414 Broadway—COMIC VOCAL-
ISM, NEGRO ACTS, &c.BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 14th
st.—BRYANT'S MINSTRELS.SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 555 Broadway—ETHIO-
PIAN MINSTRELS, NEGRO ACTS, &c.WATERLYN THEATRE, No. 720 Broadway—ETHIO-
PIAN MINSTRELS, NEGRO ACTS, &c.STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street—GRAND VOCAL
AND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT.BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC—ITALIAN OPERA—
WILLIAM TELL.NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street—EQUESTRIAN
AND GYMNASIUM PERFORMANCES, &c.HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn—HOOVER'S
MINSTRELS—NEGRO ACTS, &c.EMPIRE BUILDING, 51st street and Third avenue—
EXHIBITION OF NEW YORK STATE POULTRY SOCIETY.DORR ART UNION, 127 Broadway—EXHIBITION OF
PAINTINGS.KNOXVILLE ART GALLERY, Fifth avenue and 14th
street—EXHIBITION OF THE NINE MUSES.NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway—
SCIENCE AND ART.LADIES' NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615
Broadway—SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Thursday, December 9, 1869.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

Cable telegrams are dated December 8.
The United States Treasury report was received
favorably by the French and English press. England
rejects the modifications to the treaty of commerce
with France proposed by Napoleon's government.
The march of Austrian troops through the territory
of Montenegro is likely to lead to a difficulty be-
tween Prussia and Austria, the North Germans
supporting the Montenegrin protest. Spain is
agitated by the consequences of the
political party prosecutions. The Alabama claims
question is canvassed by the London newspapers.
Right Rev. Dr. Tempie has been confirmed as bishop
of Exeter, England. The "red" democrats have
met in council in Naples. The lay powers are not
specially represented in the Ecumenical Council.
England is still building vessels suited for the
navigation of the Suez Canal. General Banks was in
Paris.

By mail we have our special correspondence from
Europe, dated to the 26th of November, embracing
matter of much interest.

Cuba.

An attempt was made recently to burn the town
of Jula, but it was frustrated and many suspected
persons have been arrested. A movement of troops
is being made from San Esteban towards Puerto
Principe.

Congress.

In the Senate yesterday, after the announcement
of the standing committee, Mr. Edmunds gave
notice that on Friday he would call up the House
resolution concerning the Eight Hour law. Bills
were introduced in regard to an international coin-
age and to repeal all laws requiring test oaths.
Resolutions were offered in regard to ratification
of constitutional amendments, to bounties for colored
soldiers, calling upon the President for information
in regard to affairs in Cuba, concerning the Win-
nipeg rebellion, the Canadian reciprocity treaty, and
whether any States were violating the provisions of
the fourteenth amendment. The bill to relieve about
500 persons named from political disabilities was
passed. The joint resolution providing that upon
the final adjournment of the fifth amendment all
disabilities shall cease was taken up and considered,
after which the Senate went into executive session
and adjourned.

In the House Mr. Davis introduced a bill to
abolish duties on foreign coats. Mr. Munger, of
Ohio, introduced a bill to exempt from taxation ex-
soldiers and sailors of the United States to the same
extent as the property of bondholders. The House
in Committee of the Whole considered the Census
bill until three o'clock, when the committee rose
and the House adjourned.

Miscellaneous.

The Spanish gunboat question is likely to be set-
tled without further interference of the courts. The
Spanish Minister takes the ground assumed by the
Peruvian government some two years ago, that the
war between Spain and Peru ceased long since, with
no intention of its renewal, and yesterday he laid
before Secretary Fish a statement denying that the
gunboats were to be the means of carrying on a war
with Peru. The Peruvian Minister expresses him-
self satisfied with the explanation of the Spanish
Minister, and the cause of the detention of the gun-
boats is, consequently, removed.

A bill is to be introduced into the House of Repre-
sentatives for the establishment of a line of Ameri-
can mail steamers to Europe, India and China, by
way of the Suez Canal, and for reducing the rates
of ocean postage.

The House Committee on Indian Affairs will soon
report a bill for the termination of all Indian
treaties and providing for them by Congressional
legislation.

The Indians are again deprecatating extensively in
Wyoming Territory. It is believed that a mail
party which left Fort Laramie recently has been
captured.

Another mining accident is reported near Central
City, Colorado. Three men were killed and a num-
ber injured.

Judge Hoke, of Louisville, has decided that the
Kentucky State law taxing the income of national
banks arising from United States bonds is constitu-
tional, and the Congressional enactment forbidding
such tax is unconstitutional.

The ship Orion, which has been missing for some
time, went ashore on a shoal near San Diego, Cal.,
on the 6th inst., and was helped off and towed to San
Diego harbor, where she now lies.

The steamer Rebecca collided with the pier of the
bridge over the Ohio river at Parkersburg, Va., on
Tuesday night and sunk immediately, four or five of

her crew losing their lives. None of the passengers
were lost.

James O. Morris, a member elect of the New
Jersey Legislature from Mercer county, has been
held in \$1,000 bail at Trenton to answer to a charge
of ravishing Miss Rosy McCann on the 20th inst.
The National Guard of Trade visited Fortress Mon-
rore yesterday.

A young man in Washington township, Pa., was
thrown on a circular saw yesterday and sawed
nearly in two, from the shoulder, diagonally.

The members of the Philadelphia Commercial
Exchange are going to build a new hall imme-
diately.

An old resident jumped off the suspension bridge
at Niagara Falls yesterday and was killed.

The City.

The United League of the United States held its
annual meeting yesterday at the Republican Head-
quarters in Broadway, and after the adoption of re-
solutions endorsing President Grant's administration,
and the election of officers for the ensuing
year, adjourned to meet in Washington in February
next.

Recorder Hackett, in his charge to the Grand
jury yesterday, reminded them that the Richardson-
McFarland case would come before them, and he
suggested that if bigamy was committed by the
death-bed marriage, the parties aiding and abetting
it should be indicted.

In the Board of Health yesterday it was stated
that smallpox was about becoming epidemic in the
Fifth, Fourteenth and Sixteenth wards of Brooklyn,
and three special inspectors were appointed to vac-
cinate the inhabitants.

The widow of Patrick Lane, the man who was
killed by falling through the Hackensack bridge, has
been prevented with something over \$5,000 by the
railroad company.

In the United States District Court yesterday
the hearing of argument on the motion to release the
Spanish gunboats was further postponed until to-
day, owing to the non-arrival of District Attorney
Pierpont, who is in Washington.

Mart Allen, who was sentenced to Sing Sing nearly
two weeks ago, is still in the Tombs, Judge Cardozo
having issued a writ of error in the case.

The North German Lloyd's steamship Weser, Cap-
tain Wenke, will leave Hoboken at two o'clock P. M.
to-day for Southampton and Bremen. The Euro-
pean mails will close at the Post Office at twelve M.
The steamship Eagle, Captain Greene, will sail
from pier No. 4 North river, at three P. M. to-day,
for Havana.

The steamship Saragossa, Captain Ryder, will
leave pier No. 8 North river, at three P. M. to-day,
for Charleston, S. C.

The stock market yesterday was strong and active,
but, upon realizations, fell off subsequent to the
boards. Gold advanced to and closed at 124.

Prominent Arrivals in the City.

General Foster Blodgett and General H. O. Hoyt,
of Georgia; Colonel Edward Ellis, of Schnectady;
Colonel J. C. Savory, of Des Moines; Judge F. S.
Lafin, of Saugerties; Lieutenant Commander Wise,
of the United States Navy, and Judge W. Whiting,
of Massachusetts, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Samuel Dowies, of Springfield; Judge Abbott, of
Boston, and A. Biersadt, of Irvington, are at the
Bevorst House.

Commander John Horley, of the United States
Navy, and Colonel W. M. Weil, of Cincinnati, are at
the St. Charles Hotel.

Professor French, of West Point, and J. Murphy,
of the United States Army, are at the Fifth Avenue
Hotel.

General J. B. Swain, of Scarborough, and E. Durand,
of San Francisco, are at the Coleman House.

Major General C. M. Prevost and Dr. J. M. Prevost,
of Philadelphia; Robert M. Douglas, and E. D.
Larned, of Chicago; Judge J. L. Talcott, of Buffalo,
and G. A. Babcock, of the United States Navy, are at
the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Governor Geary, of Pennsylvania; E. A. Bancroft,
of the United States Army; James Terwilliger, of
Syracuse; General A. W. Eaton, of Washington, and
Postmaster M. L. Atkins, of Albany, are at the Astor
House.

A Return to Specie Payments—Senator
Sumner's Scheme.

Mr. Sumner has introduced into the Senate
the following bill to amend the Banking act
and to promote the return to specie payments:—
Be it enacted, &c. That so much of the Banking
act as limits the issue of bills to \$500,000,000 is
repealed, and existing banks may be enlarged
and new banks may be organized at the discretion
of the Secretary of the Treasury. But no more bills
than are now authorized by the Banking act shall
hereafter be issued, unless the Secretary of the
Treasury, at the time of their issue, can and does
cancel and destroy a like amount of legal tenders;
and the increase of bank bills hereby authorized
shall not exceed \$50,000,000 per year, which amount
shall be so distributed by the Secretary of the Treas-
ury as to equalize, as near as possible, the banking
interests of the different States.

And the following are the reasons which
this specie payment financier presents in sup-
port of this remarkable scheme:—

First—It will create a demand for our national
bonds and to this extent fortify the national credit.
Second—It will tend to satisfy those parts of the
country, the issue of the Treasury, can and does
cancel and destroy a like amount of legal tenders;
and the increase of bank bills hereby authorized
shall not exceed \$50,000,000 per year, which amount
shall be so distributed by the Secretary of the Treas-
ury as to equalize, as near as possible, the banking
interests of the different States.

Third—It will not expand or contract the currency,
so that the opposite parties on these questions may
support it.

Fourth—Under it the banks will gradually
strengthen themselves and prepare to resume specie
payments.

Fifth—It will give the South and West the oppor-
tunity to organize banks, and will interest those
parts of the country to the extent in the national
security and the national banking system, by
which both will be strengthened.

Sixth—It will, within a reasonable time, relieve
the country of the wide greenback system, and thus
dispose of an important question.

Seventh—It will hasten the return to specie pay-
ments.

Now, here we think we have an exemplifica-
tion of the wisdom of that favorite aphorism
of Hon. Zadock Pratt, the tanner, that "there
is nothing like leather." And likewise of the
soundness of that ancient maxim, "Let the
shoemaker stick to his last." Finance is not
the vocation of Mr. Sumner. It is one of the
exact sciences for which the peculiar cast and
draft of his mind are not adapted. His voca-
tion is that of the moral philosopher, the poet,
the historian, and the lawyer, on broad and
general principles, such as those involved, for
example, in the Alabama claims. On that
subject his great speech in the Senate has
placed before the world his abundant resources
of learning, eloquence and logic in bold and
beautiful relief. The broad facts and general
principles presented in that famous speech,
and the logical conclusions therefrom, were
such as to astonish and confound the states-
men of Great Britain, and to

Fright the idle from its propriety.

So convincing, too, as the true American
exposition of these Alabama claims is this
great argument of Mr. Sumner, that we find it
adopted in the first regular message of Presi-
dent Grant to Congress in the exposition of
his practical American views on the subject.
Here we find two minds, as widely different in
their elements and processes of thought as the
minds of John C. Calhoun and Andrew Jack-
son, meeting by different roads at the same
terminus. It is because upon this subject "all
roads lead to Rome."

But upon the why and the wherefore of his
views on finance we find the close and practical
reasoning of the soldier far more reliable than
the poet's fancies. General Grant proposes to
bring about a return to specie payments by
increasing the returns to the Treasury from
the taxes collected and taxes authorized, by
reducing expenditures, by using the reve-
nue above current expenses in the reduction
of the national debt and by funding the debt
at four and a half per cent interest as rap-
idly as his means will permit. All these
processes are practical and to the purpose.

General Grant further advocates a gradual
restoration to specie payments, and contends
that a hothouse system of forcing would spoil
the fruit in the ripening. But from first to last
the leading ideas of General Grant are to
increase the supplies in the Treasury from
existing resources, to cut down expenses in
every available thing and to lighten the exist-
ing burdens upon the country.

How widely different is this new financial
scheme of Mr. Sumner. Upon the three hun-
dred millions of currency in the notes of the
national banks now in circulation the Treasury
loses eighteen millions in gold, which these
banks pocket. Upon the same amount
of greenbacks the Treasury saves
eighteen millions in gold. Yet Mr. Sumner
proposes at the rate of fifty millions currency
a year, in the supplies to new national banks,
to absorb the four hundred millions of green-
backs in the six per cent bounty of these
banks, and thus increase this loss to the
Treasury from eighteen to forty-two millions
a year in gold. And one of his reasons for this
plan of operations is that it will "relieve the
country of the whole greenback system" and
"hasten the return to specie payments."

"Hasten." There is a fallacy in the very
word; but how the plan proposed is to hasten
specie payments we cannot divine. The Sena-
tor's reasons are mere assumptions, and we
think they are delusive and absurd. Suppose
we try the opposite system of abolishing all
this national bank currency and substituting
greenbacks for it. Upon seven hundred mil-
lions of currency the Treasury will thus save
forty-two millions a year in gold—a saving
upon which the internal revenue tax upon
incomes from salaries might be utterly abo-
lished, with still a clear gain of ten millions
in currency to the Treasury. In other words,
we pay in gold now eighteen millions, we will
say, of our income taxes on salaries to support
these national banks, and Mr. Sumner pro-
poses to increase the cost of these superfluous
institutions to millions more than the whole
revenue from such incomes.

The Senator, then, to use a homely phrase,
"has the wrong bull by the horns." The forty-
two millions which he proposes to take from
the Treasury for the benefit of these national
banks should be taken from these banks for the
benefit of the Treasury. But there is a higher
and broader objection to these banks taking
root among the people. It is the same objec-
tion which resulted in the overthrow of the
old United States Bank of "Nick Biddle" in
his conflicts with "Old Hickory." These banks
threaten to become a sort of political oligarchy,
like "Biddle's monster" and its branches, or
like General Jackson's pet State banks to some
extent. Heaven forbid that we should re-
turn to the wildcat State bank paper money
system which was extinguished by the late
rebellion. But the greenback furnishes a safe,
uniform and satisfactory currency to the coun-
try, and it will save to the Treasury in gold
forty-two millions a year, as a substitute for
the scheme of Mr. Sumner. As for the na-
tional bonds, under General Grant's policy of
redemption, they will go off fast enough with-
out the aid of these national banks. We dare
say, too, that Mr. Sumner in due time will
discover that his curious prescription for has-
tening specie payments is among the imprac-
ticable vagaries of fancy financiers.

Affairs in Dominica.

We present our readers to-day with an
interesting review of the condition of Do-
minica about twenty-three years ago. It is
compiled almost altogether from the report of
Admiral, then Lieutenant, Porter, of the
United States Navy, who was sent during
President Polk's administration to make a
survey of the whole island of St. Domingo,
under the directions of Mr. Bancroft, who was
then Secretary of the Navy. The tour of the
Lieutenant was an extensive one, and was
made with the view of obtaining reliable
information regarding the political condition
of the people and the resources of the coun-
try. The picture drawn of the island is a
flattering one, and cannot fail in impressing
us with the belief that under the influence
of a go-ahead nation like the United States it
could be made a mine of wealth to its
possessor. Even at the comparatively early
day at which the report was written the
advantages of the Bay of Samana
as a naval station for the United
States were perceived. Lieutenant Porter
in writing about it said:—"The geographical po-
sition of Samana Bay is of vast importance
to the United States. Situated close to the high-
way of all vessels coming from Europe (the
Mona passage) and of most of the vessels
from the United States bound to the West
Indies, the Power that owned it would com-
mand the commerce of any nation with whom
it was at war." The views expressed then
were regarded with favor by some; but the
subject, like many others, passed out of sight.
The time, however, is fast coming when the
acquisition not only of the Bay of Samana,
but of the whole island, may become impera-
tive. The prospects of a canal across the
Isthmus of Darien lead us to look towards
the probability of the island of St. Domingo
becoming American territory. The people of
St. Domingo, and Hayti also, are, we are led
to believe, anxious for annexation, and look to
a close relationship with the United States as
a means of securing them from the distur-
bances which are almost chronic on the island,
owing to petty jealousies of rival military
chieftains. Annexation will cure these evils,
and the sooner it is accomplished the better.

A JAPANESE PRINCE IN A JERSEY COLLEGE.—
The College of New Brunswick, New Jersey,
is just about to receive a student of the old
Asiatic civilization, who comes to the *Alma
Mater* to learn something of the modern views
of things in science, art, literature and govern-
ment as they are developed by this, the newest
nation on the globe. A Japanese prince, it is
said, intends to register himself on the rolls of
that college for the purpose of obtaining a
thorough education. There are a good many
Chinamen already availing themselves of our
educational system, but we believe that this is
the first instance of a royal scion of Japan
following that example. The communication
between the two continents is now so close
and the interests so mutual that an American
education engrafted upon Asiatic ideas may
become a necessity to the intelligent portion
of our neighbors across the Pacific who aspire to
follow in our path of progress.

Opening of the Ecumenical Council.

During the present century Rome has wit-
nessed no such display of grandeur and magnifi-
cence as was offered yesterday by the assembly
and ceremonies at the solemn opening of the
Ecumenical Council. The utmost parts of the
earth were represented in the procession of
seven hundred bishops which followed Pope
Pius IX. to the hall of the Council, and in the
dense multitude of spectators who thronged
the streets, while the bells were all ringing
and cannon was thundering from the Forts of
San Angelo and Mount Aventine.

But it is noteworthy and significant that all
this pomp was almost exclusively ecclesiasti-
cal. Although the galleries of the Hall
of Council were occupied by the sover-
eigns and princes now in Rome,
by the members of the diplomatic
corps and by other notables, not a single
special representative appeared on behalf
of any of the temporal Powers of Europe. And
what a vast proportion of all who profess and
call themselves Christians were unrepresented
in this splendid gathering of the Latin Church!

It must, moreover, be mentioned among the
signs of the times that on the same day the
bishops met in Rome the Dists assembled in
convention at Naples, and that the news of
this convention and of the opening of the
Ecumenical Council was flashed simultaneously
by the Atlantic telegraph to New York.

The Charter Election—Its Lesson.

The election held day before yesterday pre-
sented some novel features in politics which
convey a lesson that may be profitably by in
the future. Throughout the entire city the
conviction prevails that the system of "repeat-
ing" was shamelessly resorted to in some of
the wards. That in wards particularly designat-
ed bands of itinerant voters visited the
different polling places and voted in each,
without question, let or hindrance. The pres-
ence of the police, even the undisguised
fact—patent to all, to the inspectors them-
selves—that they were repeaters, did not
deter these parties from voting or having
their votes recorded. Had the contest been
between the candidates of two opposing organi-
zations the resort to this flagrant system of
fraud upon the rights of the citizens, while
it would have been strongly condemned,
might not have been so greatly wondered at;
but here, for the first time, perhaps, certainly
for the first time on such an extensive scale,
was this wrong practised upon candidates of
the same party. This arose from the fact that
the republicans, acting as an organization,
permitted the election to go by default,
and the chances thus afforded to demo-
cratic candidates not receiving the regular
nomination to contest the election with the
aid of their partisans and such repu-
blican votes as might be relied on to be
cast in opposition to Tammany.

It was, perhaps, from the fact that the fight
on Tuesday last was a one-sided one that the
extent to which "repeating" was carried was
so noticeable and so strongly deprecated within
the democratic ranks. As it is said that
"curses, like chickens, come home to roost,"
so it may be said that the curse of repeating
never came so near home as it did in this case.
It would, indeed, prove a benign visitation if
it opened the eyes of political leaders to the
danger and evil of the practice, whether or
not it devolves upon the people themselves,
from the experience of Tuesday last, to take
such steps through their representatives in the
Legislature as will secure an immediate sup-
pression of the evil in all elections to come.
If the citizens do not move in this matter at
the earliest moment and insist upon short,
sharp and decisive action in the premises,
they submit to a voluntary disfranchisement—
a thousand times more slavish and galling
than an enforced one. Mayor Hall, in a witty
little speech made by him before the St.
Nicholas Society a few evenings ago, alluded
to the habit of "repeating" which prevailed in
this city so far back as 1702, and said he sup-
posed that the same would be practised till
elections should be no more. But this is a
question for the citizens themselves, and they
alone can effectually dispose of it. The lesson
of the hour with regard to this "repeating"
business is worth repeating. Both parties say
they are anxious to have a law expressly
passed to meet and suppress this evil. But
who will take the initiative? The people, as
most deeply interested, ought to do so, and if
they but make a concerted movement upon the
Legislature at its next session and compel it
to pass a law meeting all the requirements of
the case the lesson taught on Tuesday last will
not be in vain.

COTTON IN EGYPT.—A cable despatch
informs us that certain Manchester merchants
have had an interview with the Viceroy of
Egypt, and that the Viceroy has assured them
that he is making extensive preparations to
increase the growth of cotton in the territory
under his charge. It is well known what
Egypt can do in the cotton line. Our civil war
made the Viceroy one of the richest men in the
world, perhaps the richest. It is not too much
to say that if our cotton supplies had not failed
the Suez Canal would not yet have been com-
pleted. More than has been done with Lower
Egypt in the cotton interest cannot be done.
The fact is cotton ceased to pay in Egypt when
our war ended. But Sir Samuel Baker pro-
poses to give to the Viceroy a cotton-growing
district half as large as our Southern States.
The Viceroy is not, therefore, without interest
in the Manchester mills.

A ROYAL AND WORTHY EQUIVALENT.—In
the Alabama Legislature on Tuesday it became
necessary to elect a President of the Senate
pro tem. The only negro in the Senate, a
man named Royal, and of course a radical,
courtly nominated the only white demo-
crat, whose name was Worthy. Worthy de-
clined the nomination and voted for his dark
complexioned friend Royal. This was cer-
tainly a Royal and Worthy compromise as well
as a very interesting affair in the Alabama of
to-day.

THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENTARY PLATFORM
is laid down in the speech of M. Forcade de la
Roquette, the Minister of the Interior, who
declared yesterday in the Corps Legislatif that
"the government defended the country against
evil doctrines and the country endorsed it,"
and assured the deputies that "the govern-
ment wished to establish liberty but with pru-
dence and firmness."

An Oregon Senator on Chinese Labor.

Senator Williams, of Oregon, has got a bill
providing that all contracts for the importation
of Chinese into this country shall henceforth
be declared a misdemeanor, and that contracts
now existing shall be null and void. The
people on the Pacific coast are jealous of
Asiatic labor. Perhaps it is natural that they
should be so just now, but they need not be
alarmed in the least about it, for eventually
the growth of Chinese industry and labor will
do them no harm. The time is not far distant
when the developments of all the States and
Territories on the Pacific will need labor in
abundance, and when it will be welcome from
any quarter. Labor will not come from the
Eastern States, because it will find a field for
years to come on this side of the Mississippi or
in the States that lie east of the Rocky Moun-
tains—Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado—and in
the States of the South, where it is sought for
under the most inviting circumstances. While
there is an acre to be tilled, a mine to be
worked or a mill to run in these States the
Pacific slope can hardly expect an abundance
of white labor from the Atlantic States.
Senator Williams' constituents probably know
these facts better than he does, and they
know, too, that only for the Chinese and the
prospects likely to result from their immigra-
tion the Pacific Railroad would not have been
in operation to-day—that grand highway
which brings commerce and prosperity to the
doors of Oregon and all the Pacific States,
from California to the seal hunting grounds of
Alaska. The opposition of Senator Williams
to Chinese immigration is therefore ill-timed
and foolish.

The Marriage Rite.

Recorder Hackett's suggestion in regard to
the indictment of the clergymen who, in the
marriage of Mrs. McFarland, abetted a
bigamy, is in questionable taste and not with-
out a suspicion from which the bench should
be entirely free—that, namely, of pandering
to popular fancy. Yet it is one that may
properly call attention to a point in regard to
the performance of the marriage ceremony.
Our usage is very loose. Marriage is by our
laws a civil contract that a magistrate may
perform; yet the presence or act of a magis-
trate is not held to be necessary, and in far the
larger number of cases the ceremony is per-
formed by men owning no especial obligation
under the law, but merely engaged in the
vocation of preaching. All this loose prac-
tice is an evil and invites the crime of bigamy.
It is nothing that we punish bigamy, for that
punishment evidently does not prevent the
crime, and it makes but poor reparation to a
woman who has by a villain's act been placed
in the very equivocal position of a wife
without a husband. In Europe society
has found the necessity of throwing
many safeguards around the perfor-
mance of this rite; and in France,
particularly, if it is performed by a priest it
must also be done by a magistrate. Some
steps are taken there also to prevent bigamy;
and if we could suppose such a marriage as the
recent one at the Astor House occurring at all
in such a country it could not be performed
without legal advice beforehand as to the
status of the semi-divorced wife. We
shall have to come nearer to that system. Our
present liberality opens the door to all sorts
of abuses.

WAR TO THE KNIFE.—This must be the
motto of those late holders of Erie stock who
deem that stockholders have rights which
presidents and directors are bound to respect.
So, at least, it may be inferred from the
indignant complaint and earnest prayer of an
Alabamian, whose bill, filed in the office of the
clerk of the Supreme Court and published by
us to-day, alleges that the purchase of a line
of steamers and a grand opera house was un-
authorized; prefers a number of additional
charges on account of mismanagement, pre-
judicial to the value of the stock and the in-
terests of its holders, and winds up by praying
for another injunction and a writ of subpoena
against the Erie Railway Company, its officers
and agents.

A PAINFULLY INTERESTING CASE IN THE
SUPREME COURT.—The witnesses called and
examined by Mr. Shea, who appeared yesterday
for Mrs. Caroline C. Allen, a widow, prosecuted
by her own son, an Episcopal minister, and
"hated" from childhood by her brother, accord-
ing to the latter's declaration, all agreed
in testifying that they believed her sane and
rational. Mrs. Admiral Farragut was one of
these witnesses. Mr. Shea's simple and forcible
statement of this painfully interesting case will
deepen the impression which their testimony,
unless completely rebutted by opposite evi-
dence, must make on all impartial minds of
either High Church, Low Church or no Church
pro